See MF 283, Martin

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Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold:

I finally obtained a copy of the Doyle film. It's a little fuzzy, but I can still see what's going on. Oswald seems to be pointing to someone or something as he talks to the policeman, then he points to the sidewalk. I wonder if he is pointing to his leaflets on the ground?

I made a good blow-up of this onto video tape. I was able to correct the color just a little.

Doyle told me that he shot some close-ups but that they were missing from the film when the FBI returned it to him. I'm not sure how the FBI got the scenes out without leaving splice marks. There are several "hot frames" at the start of several of the scenes, indicating that the wind-up camera was shooting toward the end of the spring wind.

These frames are slightly over-exposed and indicate that the camera was not starting out at full speed. This is evidence against a scene being removed directly before the hot frames. However, if Doyle said he shot close-ups, I'm inclined to believe him. Too bad he won't let a lab inspect his original film. If it is the original there will be obvious splice lines, if it is a print, this would be prima facie evidence of tampering.

Would you trust the U.S. Mail to safely deliver a copy of the Martin film to me? I would advise against sending it to a lab since labs don't guarantee the safety of any film they copy. But if I could borrow it for just two days I could dub it off onto video tape without taking it to a lab.

If you could ship it by "registered"mail, insured for $20,000, I would hold it just two days then ship it back the same way. I would project the film only twice, then I would view my video tape copy. I will pay the shipping costs.

Also, if you would want a copy of the Doyle and Martin films on video tape, I would provide a copy to you at no cost. Seems that the material is important enough to have several copies stored in different places.

I'm going to try to locate Jesse Core to find out more about the "missing" scene. Also, if you can give me any more information about "Bruce A." I'll try to track him down. My wife went to LSU in the early 1970s and we still have some contacts there.

I'm sure Oswald must have met many people in New Orleans in 1963, and I'm also sure that a lot of those people have tried to remain anonymous over the years.

As I study my Trade Mart film, I am convinced that Oswald was there with three other people. Oswald and Steele arrived first, just before noon. At some point the other two people arrived. The "unidentified man" handed out leaflets while his friend stood next to him with his back to the camera. This friend seems to be a bit embarrassed or doesn't want to get involved. All of these facts suggest to me that these last two people were not hired by Oswald and that only the "unidentified man" knew Oswald.

As these two people leave early, I seem to detect a "swish" in the way they walk. I may be reading something into this film that's not really there, but at this stage I think that any new ideas might help us to identify those two men.

I'm going to think of some way to check all the men in New Orleans in their 40s named "White." Since this name was listed next to "Steele" in Oswald's address book, I'm still inclined to think that White was one of these two men, probably the one who kept his back to the camera since Oswald would have already known the name of his "friend" who helped him with the leaflets.

Oh, by the way, have you ever checked the passenger list of that Eastern Airline plane that crashed into the lake at New Orleans in 1964/65? I remember from the CAB hearings that it was an unusual crash. The plane was going almost straight down at almost full speed when it hit the lake. It was torn into a million small pieces.

Have you ever studied Oswald's 1963 passport? I have found several major errors in it. There is no round "State Department" seal over his picture (compare it to his 1959 passport).

He never signed the blank space labeled "Signature of Bearer", and his name signed on the photograph has been altered. Look carefully at the WC copy of the '63 passport. His name is not signed directly over his photo but seems to have been signed over a piece of white paper or white correction fluid. In other words, the signiture has a white background and white outline around it.

The "O" in Oswald was written over his tie, yet you can't see the tie behind the "O".

Had he made an error during his first signature, and if the passport agent wanted him to sign again, the agent would have required another photo. He would not cover up the original signature and have Oswald sign again.

Quite by chance I obtained a passport from that same office on July 11, 1963. Since mine was a new application, I had to wait over a week after I filled out the application. Since Oswald's was a renewal, he got his the next day after he turned in his application (this is not unusual for a renewal). So, I applied for mine about two weeks after he applied for his.

I think both our passports were typed up on the same typewriter because the "period" key used for mine punched holes through several pages of my passport. I can see the same hole marks in Oswald's passport as published by the Warren Commission.

My passport does have the "State Department" round seal, I did sign it, and I had to sign my photo sideways so the signature would show up (the passport agent stressed to me that the signature on the photo must be readable and must not be altered or corrected in any way).

I do appreciate your sharing information with me. It doesn't matter to me if you come up with different conclusions as long as you base your conclusions on known facts. That's all any of us can do. Oswald was an extremely bizarre individual who left a strange trail of clues, and I, like you, want to know exactly what he was up to.

Sincerely,

Johann